



September Edition

Monthly Connect

A month of new beginnings, fresh energy, and purposeful goals. This September, we welcomed our new students through orientation, embraced new learnings, and stepped into a season of growth.

#SarbulandUCP

Highlights of the Month

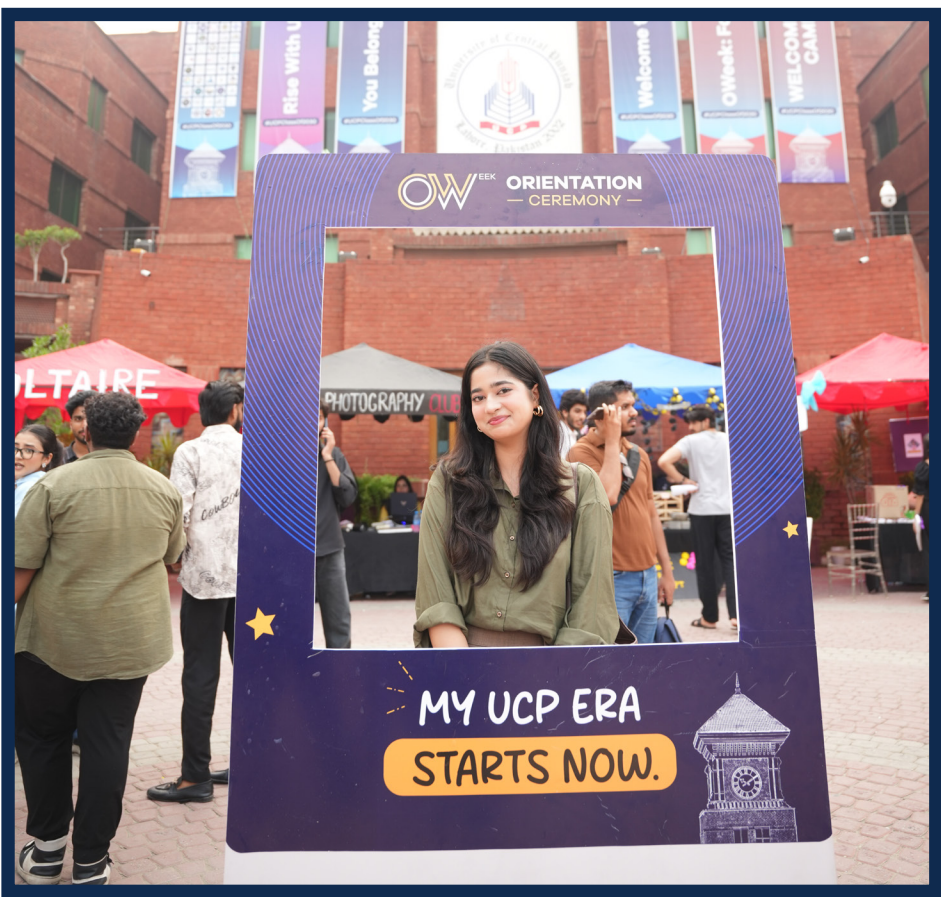
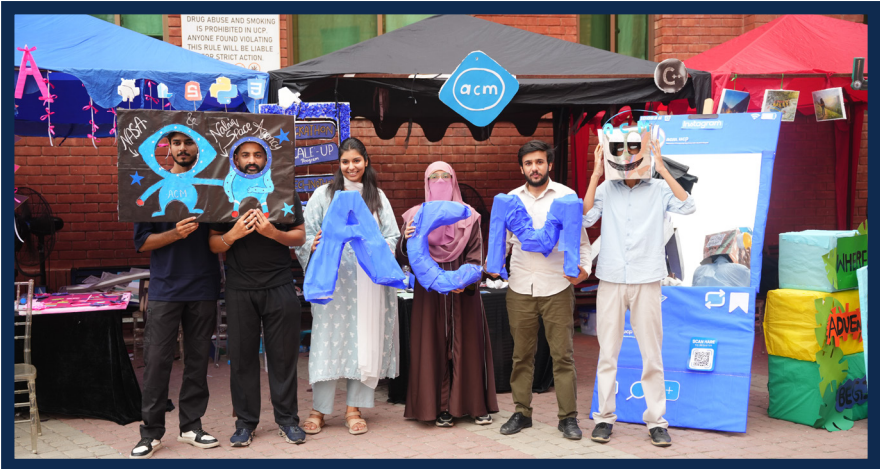
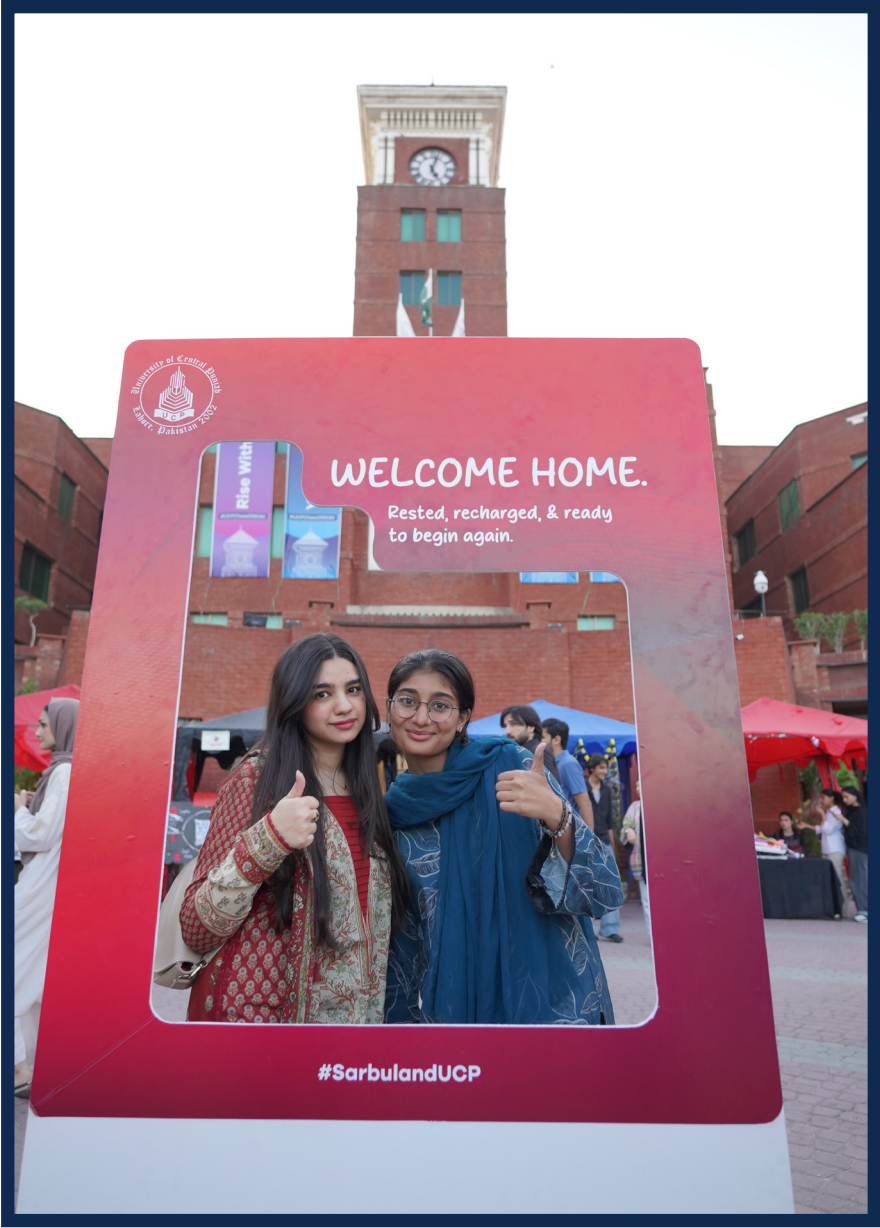


Orientation Fall 2026

University of Central Punjab's three-day orientation session for Fall 2026 welcomed newly enrolled students of Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science, Faculty of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Management Sciences, Faculty of Media and Mass Communication, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Faculty of Science and Technology.

The orientation helped students understand the university's academic environment, support services, extracurricular opportunities, and campus facilities. New students were introduced to key university offices, departments, and support services such as Student Services Centre, Department of Student Affairs, Career Services Office, Registrar's Office, Quality Enhancement Cell and Counselling Centre.

The session included musical performances by UCP students, followed by a guided campus tour, including amphitheater, library, swimming pool, gym, Takhleeq Business Incubator, and cafes. Students also visited the desks of 50+ societies, where they learnt about different activities, interacted with society members and registered for student-led initiatives. Through these activities, students collaborated with peers from different backgrounds while developing teamwork and leadership skills.









Prof. Dr. Fehmida Sultana's Farewell Ceremony

September 7 was a special day for us as we came together to honour Prof. Dr. Fehmida Sultana on her retirement, celebrating a journey of dedication and leadership spanning over three decades with the University since 1994.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Mian Amer Mahmood, Chairman, Punjab Group, who was received by Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed, Provost Muhammad Yaqoob, and Director Administration Amjad Niaz. The Chairman was accompanied by Prof. Sohail Afzal, Executive Director, Punjab Group. The ceremony was also attended by the Registrar, along with all Deans and Directors of the University.

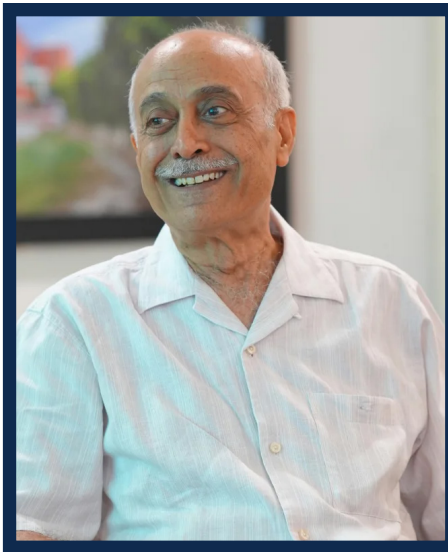
Prof. Dr. Fehmida Sultana's remarkable career includes serving as Pro-Rector from 2006 to 2010, and she holds the distinction of being the first Professor Emerita of the University of Central Punjab — a true recognition of her lasting contribution to academia and to the institution she helped shape.





18th Board of Governors Meeting

University of Central Punjab hosted its 18th Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. Senior leadership and board members discussed the university's achievements, future goals and key developments in academics, research, and student support. The meeting focused on building stronger strategies to ensure UCP continues to grow as a leading institution in higher education.



WELCOME ONBOARD



DR. KAFEEL AHMED

Dean
Faculty of Engineering

Faculty of Engineering's New Dean **Prof. Dr. Kafeel Ahmed**

We are pleased to welcome Professor Dr. Kafeel Ahmed as Faculty of Engineering's Dean. Dr. Kafeel earned his doctorate in Civil Engineering, specializing in Structural Engineering, at the University of Leipzig, Germany. His academic career spans the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Qassim University, Saudi Arabia, and the University of Central Punjab, where he has served as Professor and Head of Department since 2017. He successfully implemented the Outcome-Based Education and Assessment program and led the BSc Civil Engineering program to Level II accreditation under the Washington Accord. Dr. Ahmed's research focuses on the structural performance of fly ash and bottom ash concretes, high-performance concrete, fiber-reinforced concrete, and bond behavior at structural joints, with publications in journals including ACI Materials Journal and Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence. He has led three international conferences on New Trends in Civil Engineering and provided technical services to organizations including Packages International and the IZHAR Group. He was also shortlisted for the Vice Chancellor position at Azad Jammu Kashmir University, Rawalpindi Women University, and the University of Chakwal.

WELCOME ONBOARD



DR. HUMA HAMEED

Dean
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences' New Dean **Dr. Huma Hameed**

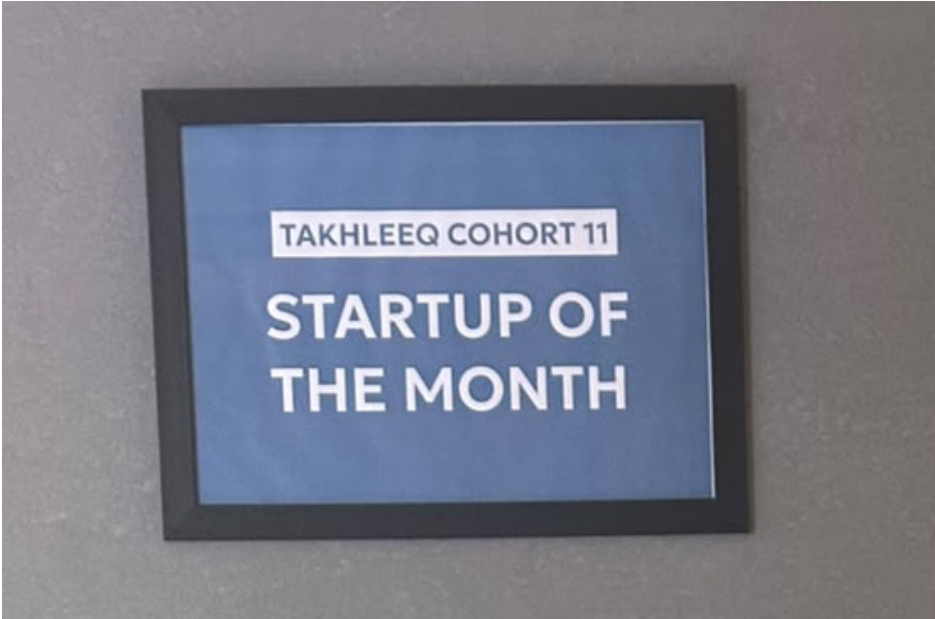
We are pleased to welcome Dr. Huma Hameed as Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences' Dean. Dr. Huma earned her doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences at INSERM-Paris and the University of Rennes 1, France, with support from the HEC Faculty Development Overseas Scholarship. Her doctoral work focused on therapeutic pathways for hepatitis, liver disease, and hepatocellular carcinoma. She has 70+ research publications with a cumulative journal impact factor above 300, focusing on drug-delivery systems, nanocarriers, and translational pharmaceuticals. She founded BioHealthion, a startup that has commercialized five products from academic research, and holds two patent applications with the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan. As Principal Investigator, she is currently leading a funded research initiative on nutraceutical product development at the University of Central Punjab. She has also supervised six doctoral researchers and fourteen MPhil researchers, and several of her students have gone on to receive international scholarships, including MEXT Japan, Erasmus Mundus, and Merit Scholarship France.



Takhleeq Cohort 11, Startup of the Month for August

We are delighted to announce Musafir Girl, a travelpreneur venture led by Ayesha Khalil, as the startup of the month for August. Ayesha serves as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Psychology) at UCP, Lahore, and has used Takhleeq as a platform to turn her passion for travel into a business, offering a refreshing alternative to standard, fast-paced tourism. Musafir Girl champions slower, more meaningful journeys, showing everyone what it looks like when an educator brings her own ideas to life.

Musafir Girl successfully planned and executed an all-girls trip to Baku, converting a bold idea into a real, revenue-generating experience. It is this blend of creativity, careful execution, and a clear understanding of what travelers are looking for that earned Musafir Girl the startup of the month recognition. We wish Ayesha all the very best and remain committed to supporting her as the brand continues to grow.



Workshops and Seminars

Pedagogy Workshop on “Fundamentals of Management”



Department of Management and Entrepreneurship’s pedagogy workshop, “Fundamentals of Management,” aimed to enhance faculty members’ understanding of key management concepts and strengthen their teaching and professional capabilities. The session focused on the placement within the BBA roadmap, identifying and prioritizing essential topics, and their relevance to subsequent BBA courses. The workshop allowed faculty to share teaching practices and assessment approaches, including case studies, scenarios, and classroom activities.

Future of Research in Age of Intelligence



Faculty of Management Sciences at the University of Central Punjab recently hosted an engaging research workshop, bringing together Business School faculty and postgraduate students to explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping the research landscape. We were honored to welcome Prof. Dr. Haslinda Abdullah, Professor at the Faculty of Business and Management, MAHSA University, Malaysia, as our guest speaker. Her session offered valuable insights into AI’s evolving role in academic and business research, from methodology and data analysis to the broader implications for researchers navigating this new era.

Supervising Projects and Dissertations



University of Central Punjab’s “Supervising Projects and Dissertations,” a 16-contact-hour faculty development course, led by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh, focused on strengthening postgraduate research supervision in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (GEP) 2023. The session covered thesis supervision, research planning, external research grants, patents and commercialization, plagiarism management, and responsible use of Generative AI in academic research.

Two-Day National Symposium on Lab Safety and Research Ethics



Department of Biotechnology’s Two-Day National Symposium on Lab Safety and Research Ethics, organized by the Department of Biotechnology, Lahore College for Women University (LCWU). Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed delivered a session, “Research Ethics and the Digital Laboratory, ” and offered insights on research integrity, responsible use of digital and AI tools, data management, reproducibility, transparency, and ethical practices in modern scientific research.

University Events

Become a Scientist for a Day



Faculty of Science and Technology’s “Become a Scientist for a Day” welcomed over 300 FSc students. The session included speeches by Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Prof. Dr. Hafiza Rizwana Kausar. Students explored professional laboratory environments in four participating departments: Basic and Applied Chemistry, Food and Nutritional Sciences, Microbiology, and Biotechnology. The event highlighted topics such as custom chemical formulation, food innovation at COFIC, clinical health metrics, diagnostic lab sciences, physical therapy mechanics, and sustainable biotechnology.

Third HPLC Hands-on Training Workshop



Faculty of Science and Technology, in collaboration with Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, organized Third HPLC Hands-on Training Workshop. Dr. Muhammad Riaz, Dr. Muhammad Asad Saeed, and Maria Usman gave insights into HPLC sample preparation and analysis. The session helped participants connect theoretical concepts with laboratory procedures and build confidence in using HPLC for analytical applications.

Industrial tour to Glowing Soft Technologies



Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science organized an industry visit to Glowing Soft Technologies for its final-year students. They were introduced to its products and services and helped students understand real-world software solutions and industry practices. Mr. Touseef Ur Rehman delivered a session with practical demonstrations on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Science, including the use of AWS SageMaker to train machine learning models.

Real-Time PCR Hands-on Training



Faculty of Science and Technology’s hands-on training on Real-Time PCR, led by CEMB-PU’s trainers, gave participants practical exposure to advanced molecular biology techniques. The session brought together faculty members, researchers, and students from CAMB, UAF, UVAS, LCWU, Superior University, GCU, PU-IMBB, and several other institutions across Pakistan.

First Cohort of Internships Closing Ceremony



Faculty of Engineering’s Centre for Advanced Research and Product Indigenization held the closing ceremony of First Cohort of Internships. Long-term collaborator Dr Stefan Poslad, Director IoT Lab, Queen Mary University of London, joined online and evaluated the work of six project groups, comprising students from Robotics, Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Kafeel Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Fesal Toosy, Head of Electrical Engineering, and Dr. Rizwan Shad, Head of Mechanical Engineering Department, presented certificates and praised the efforts of the students.

Securing Images with Cryptography: A Mathematical Perspective and Numerical Solutions of Differential Equations Using PINNs



Department of Mathematics sessions on “Securing Images with Cryptography: A Mathematical Perspective” and “Numerical Solutions of Differential Equations Using PINNs”, led by Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Hussain, Imrana Shafique, and Dr. Muhammad Naeem Aslam, explored how mathematical structures underpin modern image security and how physics-informed neural networks are reshaping the way differential equations are solved.

Beyond the Plate: Shaping the Future of Food Through Science and Innovation



Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences’ session at the Food Asia Summit on “Beyond the Plate: Shaping the Future of Food Through Science and Innovation” explored emerging developments in food science, safety, nutrition, and innovation. Dr. Ijaz Ahmad (Director General, PCSIR) honored the session as the Chief Guest.

Talent-Based Scholarships



At UCP, talent comes in many forms: in classrooms, on stage, and on the field. That’s why our Talent-Based Scholarships celebrate more than grades. Whether you’re an achiever, an artist, or an athlete, your passion deserves the spotlight. Our Talent-Based Scholarship Committee looks beyond numbers to recognize unique abilities and help shape brighter futures. Because here, talent isn’t just noticed. It’s rewarded.

Environmental Due Diligence and Reporting Tools and Life Cycle Assessment Fundamentals Workshop



Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences’ faculty members participated in Environmental Due Diligence and Reporting Tools and Life Cycle Assessment Fundamentals workshop under the S2Cool Project, funded by the UKRI Ayrton Challenge Programme. The session offered insights on environmental sustainability, LCA, and sustainability reporting.

Think, Solve, Code: Your First Step into FOITandCS



Department of Computer Science’s Think, Solve, Code: Your First Step into FOITandCS for pre-medical background learners, conducted by Ms. Sadia Aslam and Mr. Mohammad Noman, introduced students to Computer Science, logical and computational thinking, problem-solving, Artificial Intelligence, prompt engineering, algorithms, and basic programming concepts through interactive activities.

English Creative Fest



Faculty of Languages and Literature organized English Creative Fest - Thinking beyond the classroom. The event comprised of various infotainments and fun activities focusing on Theatre, Creative Writing, Public Speaking and Digital tools for writing. Overall, the purpose is to interact with prospective students and engage them with life at UCP simultaneously providing them significant skillset for the market. Students from various cities of Pakistan joined for the session and overwhelmingly participation of 125 students were certified by the end of the festival.

Theatre Training Workshop by KopyKats Productions



Faculty of Media and Mass Communication in collaboration with KopyKats Productions hosted a Theatre Training Workshop and Auditions, giving our students a firsthand experience of the craft of performance. It was led by renowned artist Mr. Syed Sajid Hassan and Mr. Dawar Mehmood, Founder and Lead Director of KopyKats Productions, the session took students through the fundamentals of acting, voice, expression, and storytelling. They then put that learning into practice through auditions, bringing confidence and creativity to the stage.

University of Central Punjab’s International GreenMetric Ranking 2026



UCP is ranked 2nd among private sector universities and 3rd overall among all Public and Private Sector Universities in Pakistan in the International GreenMetric Ranking. At UCP, we are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across various

sectors to contribute to a better world. Our efforts extend beyond just education, as we actively promote initiatives that support social equality, health, sustainability, and economic growth. By working on multiple SDGs, we strive to create an inclusive, innovative and environmentally responsible community, where students, faculty, and society at large can thrive. Through our diverse programs, collaborations, and community engagement, we aim to reduce inequalities, improve quality of life, and contribute to a sustainable future for all.

Faculty Achievements

Charles Wallace Fellowship Programme



Prof. Dr. Sumera Zaib was selected as a Pakistani fellow for the prestigious Charles Wallace Fellowship Programme UK 2026–27. She is among 17 distinguished fellows from diverse sectors across Pakistan and will visit the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom. The Charles Wallace Visiting Fellowship Programme, managed by the British Council in Pakistan, enables mid-career professionals to undertake short visits to the UK.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt’s Oath-Taking Ceremony as President Pakistan China Friendship Association



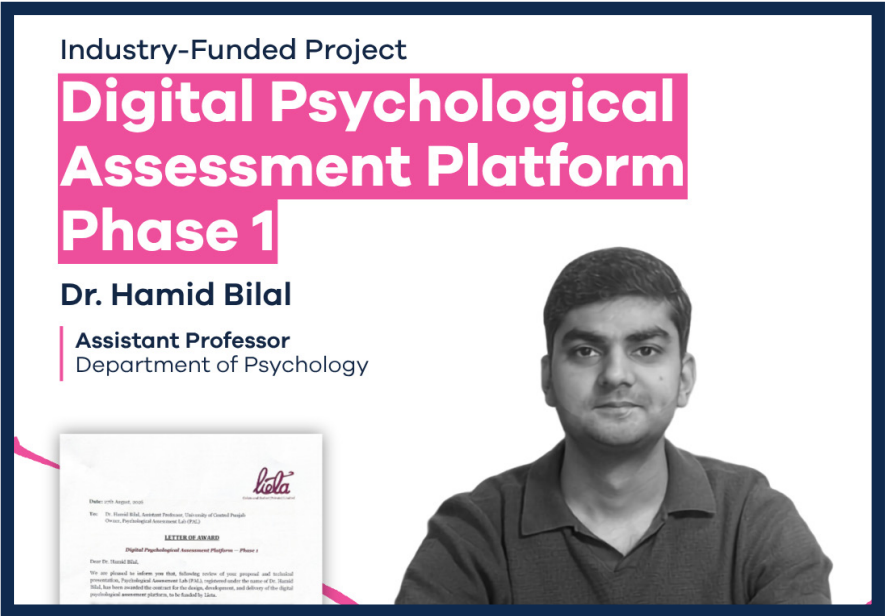
Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Faculty of Languages and Literature, took oath of office as President of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA). Chief Guest, His Excellency Sun Yan, Consul General of China in Lahore, administered the oath during the ceremony. In his address, the Consul General expressed full confidence in Dr. Butt’s leadership and assured his complete support for PCFA’s mission to bring the people of Pakistan and China closer together. He appreciated the establishment of an Alumni Chapter for Pakistanis who studied in China and welcomed cultural exchange programs between the two nations. He also inaugurated the official PCFA website. Dr. Butt and the Consul General cut a cake to celebrate China’s 77th National Day and Dr. Butt presented the Consul General with a souvenir shield as a token of gratitude.

Prof. Dr. Sumera Zaib’s Participation as an External Examiner for Ph.D. Thesis Defense



Prof. Dr. Sumera Zaib served as an External Examiner for the Ph.D. thesis defense of Mr. Muhammad Haseeb Anwar Tarar at Department of Biochemistry, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. The Ph.D. research work Characterization of Biochemical and Molecular Markers for Cardiovascular Diseases in Relation to Kidney Diseases, under Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anjum Zia’s supervision, explored biochemical and molecular markers associated with cardiovascular and kidney diseases.

Grant in Digital Psychological Assessment Platform



Dr. Hamid Bilal, Department of Psychology was selected for the industry-funded project “Digital Psychological Assessment Platform Phase 1” and received an approved grant of PKR 7.1 Million.

Arooj Nazir’s Session on Dialectical Behavior Therapy



Arooj Nazir, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology, conducted a workshop titled “Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT): The Basics” at Air University, Islamabad highlighting DBT’s foundational principles and practical applications, with a particular focus on emotion regulation, distress tolerance, mindfulness, and interpersonal effectiveness.

Arooj Nazir’s Participation in the 44th Annual Conference of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies



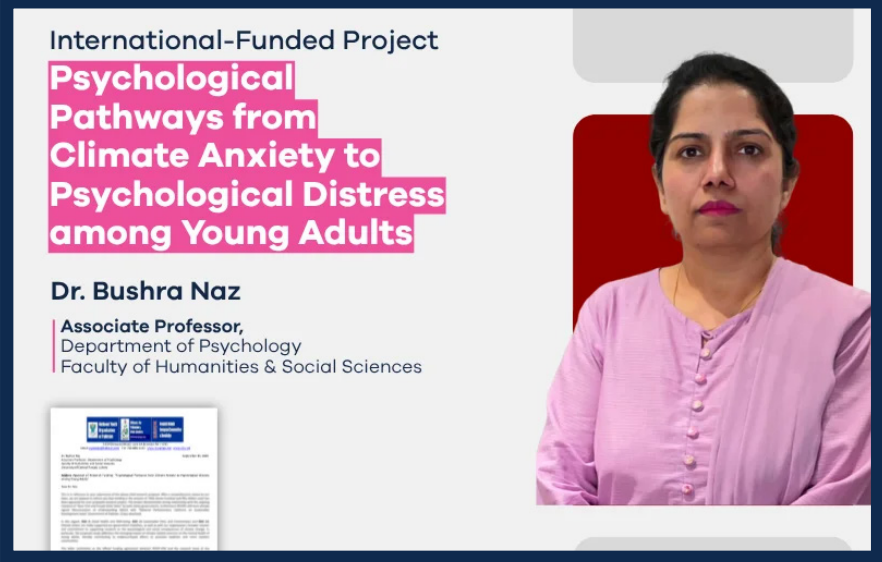
Arooj Nazir, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology participated in the 44th Annual Conference of Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies, held in Hamburg, Germany, under the theme Maintaining Human Dignity in the Midst of Crises. Her workshop Maintaining Dignity and Humiliation of Immigrants in Multicultural Countries explored discrimination, marginalization, cultural identity, belonging, and human dignity through psychological and social perspectives. She engaged with international community of scholars and practitioners, shared perspectives from her academic and professional work at UCP, and represented Pakistan in the global dialogue on human dignity.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh’s Guest Training at GCU, Lahore



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh led HEC Research Grant Proposal Writing – NRPU Projects as a guest trainer at the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization, Government College University, Lahore. The session focused on developing competitive proposals under the HEC National Research Program for Universities (NRPU) and highlighted proposal development, including structuring impactful research proposals, developing realistic budgets, and addressing evaluation criteria.

Dr. Bushra Naz’s International-funded Project



Dr. Bushra Naz on securing International-funded project, “Psychological Pathways from Climate Anxiety to Psychological Distress among Young Adults.” The National Youth Organization of Pakistan (NYOP), USA, has approved and funded the project.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh’s Keynote Speech at OIC-COMSTECH



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh delivered a keynote speech on AI and Machine Learning in Chemical Catalysis organized by OIC-COMSTECH. It highlighted how machine learning can predict material properties and advance photocatalytic research and showed how AI-driven approaches can accelerate materials discovery. International participants from several OIC Member States joined the session.

Charles Wallace Fellowship Programme



Dr. Muhammad Pervaiz’s Research Grant in the Research and Development Program



Dr. Muhammad Pervaiz secured a grant in the Research and Development Program for Alternative Cheaper Energy Sources. Dr. Pervaiz received an approved grant of PKR 1.2 Million from MA Hamza Enterprises for his project titled “Optimization of Coal Gasification for Enhanced Syngas Yield and Calorific Value with Reduced Coke Generation.” The project spans 24 months and will be supervised by Mr. Rana Zaheer Ahmed, Senior Executive Director at OGRA.

Industry Visits

FOST's Faculty Members' Industry Visit to Expo Centre



Department of Basic and Applied Chemistry's Faculty Members undertook an industry visit to Expo Centre. The delegation included Associate Professors Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Dr. Muhammad Riaz, and Dr. Muhammad Pervaiz. The session focused on strengthening academia–industry research collaboration and explored research projects and structured pathways for student internships.

Student Achievements

Lahore Medical and Dental College's MUN 2026



Our students participated in Lahore Medical and Dental College's MUN 2026 and represented the University in the following:
Saad Ali Malik represented UCP in the Pakistan National Assembly Committee and earned a Special Mention.
Bilal Ahmed represented UCP in the Crisis Cell Committee and earned the Outstanding Diplomat award.
Umemah Sohail represented UCP in the UNHRC Committee and earned the Honourable Mention award.
Bilal Ahmed represented UCP in the Best Delegate Crisis Cell Committee and earned the Best Delegate award.
Sana Mumtaz represented UCP as a Dais Member in the WHO Committee.
Sutwat Ara Saeed represented UCP in the World Health Organization Committee and earned a Special Mention.

MoUs

UCP x Genetics Pharmaceuticals MOU

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Genetics Pharmaceuticals, marking a significant step towards strengthening academia-industry collaboration. The following officials represented their organizations:
From Genetics Pharmaceuticals
• Ms. Fatima Adnan, General Manager, HR
• Mr. Mujahid Hussain, Director, Quality Operations
• Mr. Ahmad Raza, Head of RandD
From UCP
• Dr. Huma Hameed, Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
• Dr. Imtiaz Majeed, Professor of Pharmaceutics
• Ms. Tehseen Riaz, Faculty Industry Liaison Officer



UCP x Al-Jazari Water and Sanitation Academy MOU



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh signed MOU on behalf of UCP, while Dr. Souman Khalid signed on behalf of AJWA. The delegation, led by Director General, Punjab WASA, Mr. Tayyab Farid, included Principal AJWA, Dr. Souman Khalid; Vice Principal AJWA, Hafiz Ozair Ahmad; Senior Engineer AJWA, Mr. Saif Ullah; Assistant Manager Finance AJWA, Mr. Haris Sajjad Zaheer; Mr. Jahanzeb, Assistant; and AJWA Coordinator, Ms. Bakhtawar Ali. Prof. Dr. Rizwana Kausar, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, and Dr. Faiza Anum attended on behalf of UCP.

Learning Innovation Centre Managing for Learning: Strategies for Effective Classrooms



Learning Innovation Centre's Managing for Learning: Strategies for Effective Classrooms led by Ms. Madiha Khan Niazi focused on the importance of effective classroom management in creating positive learning environments, the teacher's role in shaping student engagement, and the role of active learning and the Seven Principles of Good Practice in enhancing student learning. Participants also explored classroom management strategies to promote participation, inclusion, and productive learning.

Departmental Pedagogy Partners Training



Learning Innovation Centre’s Training for Departmental Pedagogy Partners led by Ms. Zunaira Khalid gave insights to guide student-faculty collaborations, learning how to distinguish genuine pedagogical partnerships from mere task delegation and how to support these relationships without overstepping their role as facilitators. The session focused on Learning Beyond AI to foster human-centric intellectual capabilities across three main pillars: Visible Thinking, Relational Application and Conceptual Mastery.

Learning Innovation Centre’s Student Connect



Learning Innovation Centre held Student Connect, bringing together faculty and student partners, along with their Departmental Pedagogical Partners. The session focused on strengthening communication, challenging assumptions, and fostering meaningful collaboration through activities such as Hexagonal Thinking, Partnership Pyramid, and Feed Forward role-play.

Student Pedagogy Partnership Orientation Training



Learning Innovation Centre’s Student Pedagogy Partnership Orientation Training, led by Head LIC, Ms. Zunaira Khalid, explored the significance of student–faculty partnerships, partnership roles and responsibilities, constructive feedback, and evidence-informed decision-making. The session highlighted learning beyond AI framework, focusing on visible thinking, relational application and conceptual mastery.

Scratch for Educators Hands-on Workshop



Learning Innovation Centre, in collaboration with Faculty of Information Technology, organized a hands-on workshop, “Scratch for Educators”, led by Dr. Ahmad Shabbar Kazmi and Mr. Awais Muhammad Lodhi, focused on leveraging block-based visual programming to transform lecture delivery. The session highlighted Gamifying core syllabus concepts, designing interactive animations, & developing reusable visual teaching aids.

Workshop on Emotional Intelligence for Faculty and Staff



Learning Innovation Centre, in collaboration with the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization, organized a workshop on “Emotional Intelligence for Faculty and Staff”. The session explored the basics of emotions, emotional states, and four key areas of Emotional Intelligence: Self-Awareness, Self-Regulation, Social Awareness, and Social Regulation. The workshop also highlighted stress management, patience, tolerance, resilience, effective communication, and choosing healthier responses to challenging situations.

International Office Initiatives

Millenium Fellows: Class of 2026



16 students were selected as Millenium Fellows: Class of 2026. It is a prestigious global recognition, in partnership with the United Nations Academic Impact and the Millennium Campus Network, for student leaders driving action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These fellows will now form the official UCP Chapter of the Millenium Fellowship, each leading a time-bound project that advances at least one SDG and one UNAI principle over the semester.

UCP International Office's 2+2 Pathway Open House



UCP International Office hosted a two-day Open House to introduce its newly launched 2+2 pathway program, which lets students complete their degree in the UK and graduate with a ranked international qualification. Around 200 students attended across the two days. Information sessions led by International Office's staff, Rameesha Khan and Sikander Sethi walked students through the academic pathway, the curriculum breakdown, and the international opportunities that follow the program. The aim was simple: to help students make confident, informed decisions about their academic futures.

The program reflects UCP's commitment to quality higher education that remains within reach. It offers an international degree at one-third of the usual cost, and students also benefit from no IELTS requirement, teaching by UK faculty and eligibility for a post-study work permit in the UK.

To keep the atmosphere lively, the sessions were paired with interactive activities and games that encouraged students to participate and connect with one another. A campus tour rounded off the experience, giving attendees a first-hand look at UCP's facilities and university life.

Together, the information sessions, activities, and campus tour gave prospective students a complete picture of both the 2+2 International Degree Program and the UCP campus experience, along with a clear sense of their next steps.

Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research

Faiza Ghulam Nabi's Ph.D. Open Defense



Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research conducted Faiza Ghulam Nabi's Ph.D. Open Defense. She defended her Ph.D. Dissertation in Linguistics under Dr. Tahir Saleem's supervision. The defense Committee comprised Dr. Uzma Anjum and Dr. Tayyaba Yasmin as External Examiners, while Dr. Muhammad Aslam served as the Internal Examiner. The defense featured a comprehensive, engaging question-and-answer session that reflected the research's scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance.

Asma Sharif's Ph.D. Open Defense



Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research conducted Asma Sharif's Ph.D. Open Defense. She defended her Ph.D. Dissertation in Linguistics under Dr. Tahir Saleem's supervision. The defense Committee comprised Dr. Uzma Anjum and Dr. Urooj Alvi as External Examiners, while Dr. Muhammad Aslam served as the Internal Examiner. The defense featured a comprehensive, engaging question-and-answer session that reflected the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.

Humayun Zahid's Ph.D. Open Defense



Directorate of Advanced Studies and Research conducted Humayun Zahid's Ph.D. Open Defense. He defended his Ph.D. Dissertation in Electrical Engineering under Dr. Muhammad Kamran Saleem's supervision. The defense Committee comprised Dr. Danish Arif and Dr. Syed Shah Irfan as External Examiners, while Dr. Fesal Toosy served as the Internal Examiner. The defense featured a comprehensive and engaging question-and-answer session, reflecting the scholarly rigor, originality, and practical significance of the research topic.

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization

Project Grant Writing Workshop



Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization organized a Project Grant Writing Workshop, led by Pro-Rector, Dr. Hammad Naveed, focusing on practical approaches to developing effective project proposals, identifying funding opportunities, and strengthening grant applications. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh and Dr. Hammad Naveed reviewed draft proposals and shared feedback and guidance, reflecting our shared commitment to research excellence.

Financial Strategies and Revenue Models for Startups



Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization’s Financial Strategies and Revenue Models for Startups training session, led by Dr. Amina Rizwan, offered practical insights into entrepreneurship and digital innovation. She guided founders through revenue models, budget creation, and fundamental forecasting. The training explored local funding options in Pakistan and featured interactive exercises to help participants track business metrics while avoiding common financial errors. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh highlighted the importance of financial planning and distributed certificates at the closing ceremony. Malik Abdul Rahim, Research Associate, ORIC, managed the workshop.

Filing Your Income Tax Return in the Updated IRIS Portal



Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization’s Practical, Hands-on Training on Filing Your Income Tax Return in the updated IRIS Portal, led by Dr. Imran Shahzad, covered how to navigate the updated IRIS system. The session offered insights on accurately reconciling wealth statements, computing tax liabilities correctly, and filing annual income tax returns.

27th Steering Committee Meeting



Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization’s 27th Steering Committee Meeting, chaired by Pro-Rector Dr. Hammad Naveed, highlighted the ongoing commitment to research and collaboration. Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Professor Dr. Hafiza Rizwana Kausar, Dr. Ahmad Junaid Rasheed (Ferozsons), Mr. Sarim Mehmood (Fruits of Sustainability), Mr. Ahmad Waqar (Decathlon), Mr. Sohail Ali and Ms. Sehrish Akram (Pikes Soft), Mr. Muhammad Waqas (Dafi Labs), Mr. Riaz Ahmad (Riaz and Co.), Mr. Rana Faisal Shabbir (Rana Rice Mills) and Dr. Faiza Anum (ORIC) were in attendance. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhyar Farrukh presented ORIC’s key achievements and outlined future initiatives, including upcoming research projects, planned industry collaborations, and new capacity-building programs to ensure continued advancement in research excellence, innovation, commercialization, entrepreneurship, and internationalization. The session included research publications, funded projects, patent activities, faculty capacity-building programs, industry partnerships, and startup support initiatives.

Community Service
Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Session



Volunteers in Service Department, in collaboration with Alzheimers Pakistan, hosted a session on “Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease”, featuring Mr. Syed Muhammad Jafri from Alzheimers Pakistan, captivated the audience with his insights on dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, early awareness, and the importance of supporting individuals and families affected by these conditions.

Sports Achievements
Night-Waves Swimming Championship



Abubakar Siddique secured 2 Silver Medals and 1 Bronze Medal at the Night-Waves Swimming Championship held in Phuket, Thailand.



Opinion: Woven, Not Written: On Fate and the Thread

There is an intricacy seldom talked about in the way so many cultures, separated by oceans and centuries, arrived at the same image for fate: a thread. The Greeks gave us the Moirai, spinning, measuring, and cutting the length of every life. The Norse placed three women at the roots of Yggdrasil. The Chinese tied a red cord between people destined to meet. None of these civilizations borrowed the metaphor from one another, and yet each reached for the spindle and the loom. Perhaps that is because thread was the most intimate technology of the ancient world. Every household spun, and every person wore the result. To say that life was spun was to say it was made, slowly, by hands, one fibre twisted into the next.

I am of the opinion that fate, in the sense of a fixed and final script, does not exist. And if it does, it exists in an unstable state, faltering and resembling a spinning top. A top is not random. Every wobble is caused by the force that set it in motion, the surface beneath it, the friction of the air. But no one can say exactly where it will fall. This is the distinction I find most worth holding on to: a world can be fully caused without being fully written. Physicists arrived at something similar when they studied chaotic systems, where every step follows from the last, yet the smallest difference at the start leads to wildly different ends. The cosmos spreads far and wide, and even across that galactic scale, nothing happens out of pure coincidence. But “not coincidence” is not the same as “destiny.” A thing can have causes without having a purpose.

So how do we wrap our minds around the idea of fate at all? One answer is that we project. We bellow our worn minds and restless thoughts outward onto a higher existence, so that the weight of every choice does not rest on us alone. If the thread was already spun, then the loss was not our failure, the meeting was not an accident, and the grief has a reason. Philosophers have long argued that people place their deepest fears and hopes onto the heavens and then read them back as if they came from above. The other answer is simpler, and perhaps more honest: it is easier. The human mind is built to find patterns and agents behind events, because for most of our history, assuming the rustle in the grass was a predator kept us alive. Fate may be what that same instinct looks like when it is turned toward the whole of a life.

What fascinates me most is how the Norse told it. The names of the Norns are not names of gods so much as names of time in motion. Urðr comes from a word meaning “to become,” so she is what has already become. Verðandi means “becoming,” the present still in the making. And Skuld is tied to the word for “shall” or “owe,” the same root that gives us debt. The future, in this telling, is not a decree but what is owed: the consequence that follows from what has been and what is being done. The Norns do not merely foretell. They carve and weave, and the weave holds because every thread passes over and under the others. In Old English the same idea survived as wyrd, which did not mean a fixed doom so much as the unfolding of events, the way things turn out.

Read that way, the stories of Skuld sound strangely close to the language of modern research. A scientist studying how one event relates to another is asking the same question the weavers asked: which threads touch, which pull on each other, and which only appear connected because they pass through the same knot. Modern papers warn us that correlation is not causation, that two threads can run side by side without one tugging the other. The old myths had no statistics, but they had the same intuition. Nothing in the web stands alone, and the pattern only becomes visible when you step back from it.

And that is what I find almost funny. Millennia have passed, & the same questions keep surfacing. A seer at the foot of a world tree & a researcher in front of a dataset are both trying to understand why things happen the way they do, and whether what comes next is already set. The methods have changed and the interpretations have changed, but the question has stayed. Perhaps that persistence is the only thread we can be sure of. Fate may not be written, but the wondering about it has been woven through every age we know of.



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